

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02
DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01 /105 W
-----132323Z 113902 /75

O 132259Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3468

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03887

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, ENRG, SENV, CA

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON PIPELINE ISSUE

REF: A) OTTAWA 3833; B) OTTAWA 3567

1. SUMMARY: PARLIAMENT DEBATED NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) MOTION TO DELAY MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE 10 YEARS PER BERGER REPORT RECOMMENDATION. MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE; PC AMENDMENT CALLING FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE STUDY DISALLOWED BY HOUSE SPEAKER. END SUMMARY.

2. NDP LEADER ED BROADBENT MOVED TODAY THAT HOUSE OF COMMONS (HC) VOTE THAT GOVERNMENT ADOPT BERGER INQUIRY RECOMMENDATION THAT ANY MACKENZIE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION BE POSTPONED FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION BROADBENT REITERATED MUCH OF PREVIOUS NDP LINE ON MACKENZIE VALLEY PROJECT BY SUPPORTING BERGER REPORT PLEA FOR UNIQUE NORTHERN WILDERNESS AND NATIVE PEOPLES' FREEDOM TO DEVELOP ECONOMY OF NORTH ON THEIR TERMS. HE WENT ON TO ATTACK PETROLEUM INDUSTRY FOR MOUNTING PROPAGANDA.
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GANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST BERGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOR PRESENTING COUNTRY WITH FALSE CHOICE, I.E. ENERGY RESOURCES VS. NATIVE RIGHTS. HE SAID SUCH A CHOICE DOES NOT EXIST BECAUSE CANADA WON'T NEED FRONTIER GAS UNTIL 1990. PIPELINE IS FOR BENEFIT OF AMERICANS, HE CLAIMED, BUT CANADIANS WOULD PAY COSTS IN FORM OF DISTORTION OF NATIONAL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES, DENIGRATION OF CANADA'S

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT, AND CRUSHING BLOW TO NATIVE RIGHTS. NDP LEADER THEN GAVE HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT TO ALCAN PROPOSAL ON FOLLOWING CONDITION: 1) MORE TIME BE GIVEN (THREE MONTHS) FOR LYSYK INQUIRY TO STUDY IMPACT OF LINE, 2) PROJECT BE FINANCED ENTIRELY BY UNITED STATES. BROADBENT CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT GOVERNMENT MUST END "ITS MULISH ADHERENCE TO SEPTEMBER 1 DEADLINE BECAUSE REAL DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1. GOVERNMENT KNOWS PRESIDENT CARTER CAN EXTEND DECISION FOR 90 DAYS AND THAT SUCH A DELAY WOULD NOT DAMAGE U.S. INTERESTS."

3. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) LEADER JOE CLARK PRESENTED AMENDMENT TO NDP MOTION CALLING FOR STUDY BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF ALL VARIOUS REPORTS, E.G., NEB REPORT, LYSYK REPORT, AS WELL AS THE BERGER REPORT BEFORE DECIDING PIPELINE ISSUE. HE ATTACKED NDP FOR ITS "OLD BLIND BIAS AGAINST BIG BUSINESS AND UNITED STATES," THEN TURNED HIS ATTACK ON PRIME MINISTER, ACCUSING HIM OF SECRETLY AGREEING TO SEPTEMBER 1 DEADLINE, THUS GIVING AWAY EXTRA TIME CANADA NEEDS TO MAKE DECISION. HE CONCLUDED BY CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO FORMULATE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT POLICY. LACK OF SUCH POLICIES, HE SAID, ARE REASON FOR DILEMMA CANADA FACES NOW IN MAKING PIPELINE DECISION. HOWEVER, HOUSE SPEAKER SUBSEQUENTLY RULED AMENDMENT INAPPROPRIATE AND DISALLOWED IT.

4. GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER MACEACHEN EMPHASIZED NEED FOR BALANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY CONCERNS. HE SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADA'S NEED TO DECIDE STAND ON PIPELINE DOES NOT OBLIGATE IT TO APPROVE ANYTHING. ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES (EMR) MINISTER GILLESPIE REITERATED CANADA'S IMPORTANT ENERGY REQUIREMENTS NECESSITATE CLOSE STUDY OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD (NEB) REPORT.

5. MOTION FAILED TO CARRY ON VOICE VOTE.

6. COMMENT: CONSPICUOUS WAS GOOD DEAL OF ARGUMENT BETWEEN PC AND NDP; GOVERNMENT RECEIVED USUAL, EXPECTED CRITICISM (AS ON LACK OF ENERGY POLICY). CLARK'S AMENDMENT AMOUNTS TO SIGNIFICANT SHIFT FROM HIS RECENT STATEMENT TO PRESS (OTTAWA 3732). PRESS ACCOUNTS DESCRIBE CLARK'S STAND TODAY AS "HUMILIATING" RETREAT.

7. NEXT STEP WILL PRESUMABLY BE FURTHER PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AS PROMISED BY MACEACHEN (OTTAWA 3732), ALTHOUGH SCHEDULE FOR IT NOT YET SET (TECHNICALLY, TODAY'S DISCUSSION WAS ON "OPPOSITION DAY" AND WAS NOT PART OF GOC

PLANNED DEBATE). PIPELINE COORDINATOR BASIL ROBINSON
ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOC HAS PLACED ITS OWN MOTION
ON ORDER PAPER, CALLING FOR STUDY OF NEB AND OTHER PIPE-
LINE REPORTS BEFORE DECISION IS MADE, BUT DOES NOT
NECESSARILY INTEND TO USE IT. ROBINSON DESCRIBED IT AS A
"SAFETY VALVE" IN CASE GOC THOUGHT IT WAS NEEDED DURING
DEBATE. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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